

## REPORT

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2. [redacted] the SED was behaving as if they felt stronger than ever. But the reality was different. The party was suffering from many shortcomings, confusion, and inner strife. It must not be expected, however, that this situation would produce a real crisis or a purge of leading functionaries. The present moment [redacted] was very unfavorable for trials such as the Slansky trial or purges from above. Although it is true that the SED holds all power, the influence of the Soviets, who have a political concept of their own, must be taken into account. 25X

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the other parties operating in the GDR were even worse than the SED. This applied also to the CDU, which had many members and functionaries who disagreed with the executive board of the party. Recently, there had been an incident in Meissen which compromised the CDU. The people involved were decent men, but they did not know what they were doing. They should have taken into consideration that the SED, their big brother, was very pleased with

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4. The LDP was even worse off than the CDU. All hope was placed on Dieckmann and Loch and "fat Kastner", who stayed in the background. These men longed for the reunification of Germany [redacted] because it was a matter of life and death to them. The NDFD would run into trouble later. This party represented nothing but a crowd of opportunists. Political organisations such as the FGB, FDJ, etc. were entirely dominated by the SED.

5. [redacted] the situation was not desperate, in spite of all appearances to the contrary. [redacted] the reunification of Germany would be realized sooner than most people thought, in spite of Adenauer and Ulbricht. The Soviets would be very glad if this reunification was brought about soon, because they do not want to risk war. They are convinced that they would win the war but they fear that it would only devastate Europe. Moreover, they are firmly convinced that the capitalist system will disintegrate by itself. The Soviets would be ready for four-power negotiations prior to and after the ratification of the Paris Agreements and would be inclined to make concessions. This may even be true after the implementation of these agreements. [redacted]

[redacted] there would be four-power negotiations before the implementation of the Paris Agreements. The Soviets did not hold the French in high esteem at present.

[redacted] The SPD had held their ground rather well recently.

[redacted] in the long run it was impossible to steer a political course consistently opposed by organized Labor.

6. Concerning the situation in the GDR, [redacted] conditions had to a certain extent improved but most people were still rather indifferent. On the other hand, it must be recognized that fewer people continued to place their hope in Adenauer, because his policies apparently involved the writing off of the Eastern Zone of Germany. Every SED member was perfectly aware of the fact that no East German Army would be filled with enthusiasm while playing the role of an anti-Western force. The SED placed its hope on the Soviets. Whether these conditions would continue for long was, however, doubtful. The youth of the country was gradually being won over by the régime, and it could not be denied that much was being done for its welfare. [redacted] a sharp decline in the living standard of the GDR population as announced by Radio RIAS was not to be expected, although living conditions in the GDR were superior to those in the USSR and her satellites. The German population was profiting from the fact that the GDR was the western show window of socialism.

[redacted] Of course, the future belongs to socialism, but it was not yet decided which form it would take in Europe and Germany. One thing was certain, however, that Bolshevism would emerge as the only political force after a third World War.

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